

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04
OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 STR-07 IO-14
/124 W

-----089456 181844Z /42

R 171926Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4986
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 03159

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, EP, PERP, ECIN

SUBJ: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: QUESTION CONCERNING RATIFICA-
TION OF THE EC/GREECE SECOND FINANCIAL PROTOCOL

1. DURING THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S FEBRUARY SESSION IN STRASBOURG THIS WEEK, DE CLERCQ (BELGIAN, LIBERAL) QUERIED THE EC COMMISSION REGARDING WHETHER THE COMPETENT COMMUNITY BODIES HAVE CONTACTED THE PARLIAMENTS OF THE EC MEMBER STATES WHICH HAVE NOT YET RATIFIED THE EC/GREECE FINANCIAL PROTOCOL, SIGNED LAST YEAR AND INVOLVING 280 UNITS OF ACCOUNT (U.A.; 1 U.A. \$1.22) IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO GREECE, WITH A VIEW TO SPEEDING UP THE PROCESS. ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION, COMMISSIONER BURKE RESPONDED THAT WHILE REGRETTING THE DELAY IN THE RATIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR THE SECOND FINANCIAL PROTOCOL, "THE COMMISSION HAS NOT CONTACTED THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES DIRECTLY IN ORDER TO ACCELERATE THESE

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PROCEDURES." BURKE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT "THE COMMISSION RAISED THIS PROBLEM IN THE COUNCIL IN JANUARY AND INVITED MEMBER STATES TO ... COMPLETE RATIFICATION BEFORE THE END OF MARCH." BURKE ANNOUNCED THAT IF THIS ACTION IS NOT TAKEN, THE COMMISSION RESERVES ITS RIGHT TO REQUEST THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE FINANCIAL PROTOCOL BY AUTONOMOUS MEANS, BUT HE UNDERLINED THAT IN THE LONG RUN THE NATIONAL

PARLIAMENTS STILL NEED TO RATIFY THE PROTOCOL SINCE MEMBER STATES ARE CONTRACTING PARTIES IN THEIR OWN RIGHT.

2. IN THE DEBATE WHICH ENSUED, MP'S FROM VARIOUS POLITICAL GROUPS EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL PROTOCOL TO GREECE, PARTICULARLY WITH A VIEW TO FACILITATING ITS SMOOTH ACCESSION TO THE COMMUNITY. THESE SAME SPEAKERS EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD NOT WAIT FOR ALL MEMBER STATES TO RATIFY THE PROTOCOL BEFORE PUTTING IT INTO EFFECT. IN A FURTHER REPLY, BURKE NOTED THAT ONLY DENMARK AND THE NETHERLANDS HAVE RATIFIED THE PROTOCOL AND THAT ALL NECESSARY PROCEDURES SAVE RATIFICATION HAVE BEEN COMPLETED IN FRANCE AND ITALY. HE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT IN ORDER TO SPEED UP THE PROCEDURES IN MEMBER STATES, MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT SHOULD THEMSELVES TAKE UP THE MATTER IN THEIR NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS. HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY RATIFICATION, FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE03159
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780076-0570
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780243/aaaabkqp.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8a5d47d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3565978
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: QUESTION CONCERNING RATIFICATION OF THE EC/GREECE SECOND FINANCIAL PROTOCOL
TAGS: PEPR, ECIN, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8a5d47d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014